

I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 171. I, too, want to thank Chairman *Berman* and Ranking Member *Ros-Lehtinen* and their staffs for their time and efforts in bringing this bill to the floor.

I have advocated for increased attention in the Balkans, and especially to the needs of Bosnia Herzegovina, a country with a long, rich tradition of multiethnic communities living and working together. I asked Secretary Clinton about this just a few weeks ago when she appeared before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and I think she, too, agrees that there needs to be renewed attention to this country. I hope this resolution is another step toward U.S. reengagement in the region and offering Bosnia the support that it needs.

This resolution recognizes the need for constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and highlights the importance of sustained U.S. engagement in partnership with the European Union.

As a founding member and co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Bosnia with my colleague, Chris Smith from New Jersey, and having the distinct pleasure of representing a growing, vibrant community of Bosnian-Americans in the St. Louis, Missouri, region, one of the largest communities of Bosnian-Americans in the country, I am pleased to support this resolution.

I especially want to highlight two clauses in this resolution that I think are of particular importance. First, we need to continue our efforts, both here and at the ICTY, to achieve justice for victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, as well as to promote reconciliation among ethnic groups.

Secondly, that the appointment of a Special Envoy to the Balkans who can work in partnership with the EU, Bosnia, and other leaders will help redirect the U.S. commitment to the region.